

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00225 191030Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 SAJ-01 /089 W

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R 181340Z FEB 76 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2980

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR

SUBJECT: LIBYAN-FRENCH RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 4617

1. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI, LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLUD'S POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WENT MUCH AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS. JALLUD TOOK A HARD LINE ON MAYOTTE AND DJIBOUTI, AND LECTURED HIS INTERLOCUTORS, INCLUDING GISCARD, ON FRANCE'S INTEREST IN SIDING WITH ARAB PROGRESSIVES (LIBYA, ALGERIA) AGAINST REACTIONARIES (EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, MOROCCO ET AL.)

2. AT THE SAME TIME, A FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE ADMITS THAT ARMS SALES WERE DISCUSSED. JALLUD REPORTEDLY PUSHED FOR PRICE CONCESSIONS AND A WAGER OF THE USUAL

CONDITIONS FORBIDDING TRANSFER OF ARMS TO
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00225 191030Z

THIRD PARTIES, BUT THE FRENCH INTEND TO RESIST THESE

DEMANDS. THE SOURCE SAYS THAT MUCH AS THE FRENCH ARMS INDUSTRY DEPENDS ON FOREIGN SALES, FRANCE WILL NOT SELL THE LIBYANS EVERYTHING THEY WANT. HE SPECULATES WITH US THAT THE REASON FOR WHAT HE CALLS THE "SUDDEN SPURT" OF LIBYAN EAGERNESS FOR CLOSER TIES WITH FRANCE IS A DESIRE TO OFFSET LIBYAN DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION AS A SOURCE OF ARMS, AND A REFLECTION OF CURRENT LIBYAN UNHAPPINESS WITH THE SOVIETS.

4. FRANCOIS-PONCET IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, AND HE WILL REPORTEDLY TRY TO TIE DOWN AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF CHIRAC'S VISIT. THE FRENCH KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN CAREFULLY PREPARED AGREEMENTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO RE-NEGOTIATION WHEN CHIRAC ARRIVES, AND THEY HAVE THE VATICAN'S RECENT EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE WITH LIBYAN NEGOTIATORS VERY MUCH IN MIND.
CARLE

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